

Submitter: Mike Flaningam
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

I'm an Oregonian who is strongly opposed to SB 769. I live in a rural county where it's not uncommon to hear of cougar sightings in the community, so I'm well aware of the problems this species can cause for humans. But I've also been fortunate to learn about the Indigenous culture that is such a vital part of our part of the world. It teaches us that we have the responsibility to be stewards of the land and all living beings it serves as home for. Cougars have a right to the land as much as we do, yet we continue to take away their home and then get upset when they cause problems for us. Killing the in any manner because they inconvenience us is wrong, while doing so using dogs is barbaric and cruel. This example of disrespect for nature is an example of how disconnected we've become to the planet, and this disconnection is killing us. I hope the committee will seek the opinion of local Tribal leaders. They are the experts in the matter of how to best find balance in coexisting with wildlife.